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FROM: PARIS

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TO: Secretary of State

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NO: POLTO CIRCULAR 9, OCTOBER 18, 9 PM

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POUCHED ALL OTHER NATO CAPITALS.

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POLAD MEETING OCTOBER 18 - - SOVIET OVERFLIGHTS TO CUBA.

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RESPONSES OUR REQUEST FOR DENIAL SOVIET OVERFLIGHTS AND LANDINGS EN ROUTE CUBA WERE GENERALLY FAVORABLE. CANADIAN STATEMENT, COMING EARLY IN DISCUSSION AND DELIVERED BY RITCHE OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SITTING IN ESPECIALLY FOR THIS ITEM, WAS PARTICULARLY HELPFUL.

US LED OFF DISCUSSION REFERRING TO STATEMENT PREVIOUS MEETING AND POINTING OUT THAT WHILE PRESENT FREQUENCY SOVIET FLIGHTS NOT GREAT, SOVIETS COULD BE EXPECTED INCREASE THEIR FLIGHTS PARTICULARLY IF US MEASURES RE CUBAN SHIPPING ARE AS EFFECTIVE AS WE HOPE THEY WILL BE.

FRG SAID WOULD DENY ALL SOVIET REQUESTS FOR OVERFLIGHTS OR LANDINGS EN ROUTE CUBA.

FRANCE REPORTED WOULD ALSO TURN DOWN SOVIET REQUESTS SO LONG AS PRESENT SITUATION PREVAILS IN CUBA.

GREECE SAID PREPARED DENY OVERFLIGHT AND LANDING PRIVILEGES. HOWEVER, FOR REASONS FLIGHT SAFETY GREECE CONSIDERS IT COULD NOT DENY ASSISTANCE TO SOVIET AIRCRAFT PASSING THROUGH SO-CALLED FLIGHT INFORMATION REGION WHICH EXTENDS CONSIDERABLY BEYOND GREECE ITSELF, AND COMMENTED SUCH REFUSAL MIGHT LEAD TO SOVIET REPRISALS, E. G. AGAINST ALLIED FLIGHTS IN GERMANY.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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CANADA REPORTED WILL REFUSE OVERFLIGHT AND LANDING PRIVILEGES TO CUBA-BOUND SOVIET AIRCRAFT. RATIONALE, WHICH WILL BE GIVEN SOVIETS AS NECESSARY, BASED ON DISTINCTION BETWEEN ICAO MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS. CANADA CONSIDERS THAT COMPLIANCE WITH INCREASING SOVIET REQUESTS GIVES SOVIETS PRIVILEGES OF ICAO MEMBERSHIP WITHOUT HAVING CORRESPONDING OBLIGATIONS. CANADA REGARDS PAST GRANTS TO SOVIETS AS EXCEPTIONAL PRIVILEGE AND NOW INTENDS FALL BACK ON DISTINCTION BETWEEN ICAO MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS. WILL CONTINUE RECOGNIZE RIGHTS OF CZECHS AND CUBANS SINCE BOTH ARE ICAO MEMBERS.

UK SAID IT NOT UK POLICY TO PARTICIPATE IN ECONOMIC EMBARGO OF CUBA. THEREFORE UK HAS GRANTED SOVIET REQUESTS IN PAST. BASIC POLICY UNCHANGED, BUT UK HAS NOW DECIDED WITHHOLD FURTHER GRANTS FOR TIME BEING. EMPHASIZED TEMPORARY NATURE OF DECISION. UK TAKING THIS STEP RELUCTANTLY AND JUSTIFYING THIS ACTION TO ITSELF ON GROUNDS SOVIETS DO NOT GIVE RECIPROCAL OVERFLIGHT AND TRANSIT RIGHTS. IF SOVIETS WERE TO RECIPROCATE UK WOULD HAVE TO RECONSIDER.

DUTCH SAID HAD RECEIVED NO SOVIET REQUESTS TO DATE BUT PREPARED SUPPORT US WHILE RESERVING RIGHT CONSIDER ANY SOVIET REQUESTS ON CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.

ITALY SAID CAN ASSURE US REQUEST BEING CONSIDERED IN COOPERATIVE SPIRIT. URGED THAT NATO DISCUSSION THIS QUESTION BE HELD VERY CLOSELY IN VIEW POSSIBLE ADVERSE REACTIONS AMONG LA NATIONS IF FACT DISCUSSIONS TAKING PLACE WERE REVEALED.

PORTUGAL SAID HAD RECEIVED NO SOVIET OVERFLIGHT REQUESTS TO DATE AND THAT US REQUEST GIVEN SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION.

NORWAY SAID PROBLEM NOT SIGNIFICANT IN TERMS NUMBERS OF FLIGHTS OVER NORWEGIAN TERRITORY BUT THAT NORWAY WILL COMPLY IN PRINCIPLE WITH US REQUEST. IF NORWAY SHOULD FIND IT NECESSARY DUE EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES TO GRANT A SOVIET REQUEST, NORWAY WOULD INTRODUCE QUESTION INTO POLAD. AS EXAMPLE EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCE NORWEGIAN REPRESENTATIVE SPECULATED RE POSSIBILITY KHRUSHCHEV MIGHT WISH FLY HAYANA.

• LUXEMBOURG WILL COMPLY US REQUEST.

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TURKEY POINTED OUT MONTREUX CONVENTION IMPOSED RESTRICTION ON ITS FREEDOM TO DENY OVERFLIGHT REQUESTS. HOWEVER WILL REQUEST FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS IN VIEW VIRTUAL POLAD UNANIMITY.

BELGIUM HAD NO FIRM INSTRUCTIONS YET BUT SAID INFORMALLY WOULD BE PREPARED COMPLY US REQUEST IF ALL OTHERS DID.

DENMARK SAID DID NOT YET HAVE FINAL INSTRUCTIONS, THAT MATTER STILL BEING CONSIDERED AT HIGHEST LEVEL AND THAT COPENHAGEN INTERESTED OUTCOME THIS MEETING.

NETHERLANDS POINTED OUT THAT ICELAND, WHICH FIGURED IMPORTANTLY THIS QUESTION, NOT PRESENT AT MEETING AND REQUESTED ICELANDIC POSITION BE DETERMINED.

US EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR OTHER RESPONSES. UNDERSTOOD DIFFICULTIES FACING COUNTRIES SUCH AS TURKEY ON THIS QUESTION, BUT DIFFICULTIES WOULD BE COMPOUNDED IF UNANIMITY LACKING. IT WAS THEREFORE IN INTEREST OF ALL THAT QUESTION BE KEPT BEFORE POLAD UNTIL COMPLETE AGREEMENT REACHED AND THAT ANY CHANGES IN POSITION OR CONTEMPLATED EXCEPTIONS BE DISCUSSED IN POLAD. REFERRING ITALIAN COMMENT WHICH CHAIRMAN HAD ECHOED SAID WE AGREED NECESSITY KEEPING THESE DISCUSSIONS CONFIDENTIAL AND WOULD MAKE SPECIAL POINT OF ITALIAN CONCERN IN OUR REPORT ON MEETING. AS TO LA REACTION, HOWEVER, US DID NOT BELIEVE REAL PROBLEM EXISTS AND RECALLED THAT RECENT LA FOREIGN MINISTER'S MEETING ON CUBA HAD REQUESTED ACTION FROM OTHER INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES.

CHAIR NOTED NO ONE HAD REFUSED US REQUEST AND AGREED NEED SEEK UNANIMITY AND HOPED IT COULD BE REACHED AT NEXT POLAD MEETING. THIS MEETING NOW SCHEDULED FOR AFTERNOON THURSDAY OCTOBER 25.

FINLETTER

LM/SJR

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